

FLORIDIANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Floridians. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Florida. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Florida.

INCOME: FLORIDIANS ARE EARNING LESS TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Florida was \$43,009.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Florida was \$42,440, a drop of 1.3 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN FLORIDA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Florida had 2,703,000 adults without insurance (17.4 percent).³
- In 2005, Florida had 3,703,000 adults without insurance (20.7 percent).⁴
- Florida had 384,801 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN FLORIDA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Florida was \$7,944.⁶ In 2005, it was \$9,335, an 18 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Florida was \$19,800.⁸ In 2005, it was \$23,793, a 20 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Floridians affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 163,345¹⁰
- Number of Floridians affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 163,202¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR FLORIDA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Florida was \$1.299 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Florida is \$2.469 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Florida was \$1,758.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Florida is \$3,342, \$1,584 (90.1 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: FLORIDIANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Florida – 3,381,970¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Florida – \$883¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: FLORIDIANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Floridians killed in Iraq – 110¹⁸
- Number of Floridians wounded in Iraq – 909¹⁹
- Number of Floridians killed in Afghanistan – 24²⁰
- Number of Floridians wounded in Afghanistan – 55²¹
- Number of Veterans in Florida – 1,788,496²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING FLORIDA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 2,912 estates in Florida paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 574 estates in Florida will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 207,000 workers in Florida would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$31,896,527²⁶
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$5,421,336²⁷

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST FLORIDIANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Floridians.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Florida residents each received an average of \$3,086 in tax cuts, while middle class Florida residents received only \$356.²⁸
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Florida residents will receive an average of \$55,118 in tax cuts, while middle class Florida residents will only receive \$624.²⁹
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Florida residents will each receive an average of \$117,896 in tax cuts, while middle class Florida residents will only receive \$735.³⁰

The richest Floridians receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Floridians received 7.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 17.3 percent of the tax cut.³¹
- But, in 2006, the richest Floridians will get 36.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.2 percent of the tax cut.³²

- And, in 2010, the richest Floridians will get 56.4 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 7 percent of the tax cut.³³

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Floridians.

- In 2010, the richest Floridians will receive an average of \$21,214 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Floridians will be getting over 59.9 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁴
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Floridians will receive an average of \$62 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 3.5 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁵

SOURCES

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- 24: United for a Fair Economy [www.faireconomy.org/estatetax/ETDataByState.html]. This estimate is based upon current law where the estate tax threshold is slated to rise to 3.5 million in 2009.
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